



MAYES

By the grace of God, King of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, &c. To all and singular Archbishops, Bishops, Archdeacons, Deans, and their Officials, Parsons, Vicars, Curates, and to all spiritual persons. And also to all Justices of Peace, Sheriffs, and to all Officers of Cities, Boroughs, and Towns corporate: And to all other our Officers, Ministers, and Subjects whatsoever they be, as well

within Liberties, as without, to whom these presents shall come, greeting:

WHEREAS we are very credibly given to understand, by a Certificate under the hands of our trusty and wellbeloved Subjects Sir John Lasburgh, and Sir Anthony Drury Knights, Anthony Hobart, Owen Shephard, John Smith, and Jeffery Ward, Esquires, Justices of the Peace within our County of Norfolk, that our pover distressed Subject Thomas Peeke of the Towne of Loddon, in our foresaid County Husbandman, hath heretofore borne a man of good estate and account, and one that all his life time lived in good sort and

reputation amongst his neighbours, but so it is that he is now fallen into great want and poverty, by reason of a sodaine and fearefull fire hapning on the eight and twentieth day of March last past, in the night time (through the negligence of a lewde and idle servant) which consumed and burnt downe to the ground his dwelling house, and other houses of office, household stuffe, Cotte of divers kindes, provision of household and other Commodities, and some writings of great moment, amounting in all the whole losse to the value of three hundred pounds, to the bitter undoing of our said pover Subject, who was heretofore a farmer of about a hundred pound a yeare, and able to maintaine his charge of Wife, Children and family in good credit and fashion and to give reliefe unto others but so miserable is his estate now, that he is not able to helpe himselfe, but being lyable to rebuild his said house againe, is likely to continue the rest of his dayes in great misery, unless some charitable course be forthwith taken for his reliefe herein. whose miserable and pover estate was much pittie, and have thought good upon the humble request of all our foresaid Justices made unto us in his behalfe, to commend the same unto the charitable consideration of all our loving and wel disposed Subjects within certaine Counties hereafter mentioned, not doubting but that all good Christians well weighting the premises, will be ready and willing as feeling members one of anothers miserie, to extend their charitable contributions towards his reliefe and Comfort of their pover distressed Brother, in this his great necessity.

It is therefore, that of our speciall Grace and Princely compassion, we have given and granted, and by these our Letters Patents doe give and graunt, unto our said pover Subject Thomas Peeke, and to his Deputy and Deputies, the bearer or bearers hereof, full power, licence, and Authority, to aske, gather, receive and take the Almes and charitable benevolence of all our loving Subjects whatsoever, inhabiting within our Counties of Norfolk, Suffolke, Essex, Hertford, Kent, Middlesex, Cambridge and Surrey, with our City of Norwich, and in our Cities of Canterbury, Rochester, and the Cinque Portes, with our City of Westminster, and Borough of Southwarke, with our University of Cambridge, and the City of Ely, And in all other Cities, Townes Corporate, parishes, places, Parishes, Villages, and in all other places whatsoever within our said Counties, and not else where, for and towards the recovery of his said losse, and the reliefe and maintenance of himselfe, and his pover Wife and Children.

THESE ARE our will and Command you and every of you, that at such time and times, as the said Thomas Peeke, or his Deputy or Deputies, the bearer or bearers hereof, shall come & repaire unto any your Churches, Chappels, or other places, to aske and receive the gratuities and charitable benevolence of our said Subjects, quietly to permit and suffer them so to doe, without any manner let or contradiction, And you the said Parsons, Vicars, and Curates, for the better stirring up of a charitable devotion, deliberately to publish and declare the Tenor of these our Letters Patents, unto our said Subjects upon some Sabaoth day, when as the same shall be tendered unto you. Exhorting and perswading them to extend their liberrall contributions in so good and charitable a deed. And you the Churchwardens of every Parish, where such Collection is to be made (as aforesaid) to Collect and gather the Almes and charitable benevolence of all our loving Subjects, as well Strangers as others: and what shall be by you so gathered to deliver it to the bearer or bearers of these our Letters Patents and to no other person, when as thereunto you shall be required. And lastly, whereas we are informed of the great abuse which is now crept in amongst these pover people, who sell their Licences unto some other person, whereby mens charity goeth not the right way, but unto such as deserve it least: That from henceforth our will and pleasure is, that if it may appear unto you or any of you, that the said Thomas Peeke, have contracted any bargain, or made or shall make sale of these our Letters Patents, whereby the benefit should passe from him to any other person, That thereupon these our Letters Patents shall be void and of none effect. Any Statute, Law, Ordinance, or Provision, heretofore made to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding.

In Witnesse whereof, we have caused these our Letters to be made Patents for the space of one whole yeare next after the date hereof to endure. Witness our selfe at Westminster the Thirtieth day of February, in the Eighteenth yeare of our Raigne of England, France, and Ireland: And of Scotland the fourth and fiftieth.

1620.

Steward.

God save the King



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April, 20. Anno Dom. 1621.

Cum Privilegio.